

Message Text

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ACTION EUR-12

INFO OCT-01 IO-10 ISO-00 ORM-02 DHA-02 SAM-01 EURE-00

SAJ-01 CIAE-00 PM-04 H-02 INR-07 L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-05

PA-01 PRS-01 SP-02 SS-15 USIA-06 ACDA-05 AID-05 EB-07

CIEP-01 TRSE-00 STR-04 OMB-01 CEA-01 COME-00 LAB-04

SIL-01 /104 W

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P R 281557Z OCT 75

FM AMEMBASSY LISBON

TO SECSTATE WASHDC PRIORITY 4752

INFO AMEMBASSY BONN

AMEMBASSY BRUSSELS

USMISSION EC BRUSSELS

USMISSION GENEVA

AMEMBASSY LONDON

AMEMBASSY OSLO

AMCONSUL OPORTO

AMEMBASSY PARIS

AMCONSUL PONTA DELGADA

AMEMBASSY ROME

AMEMBASSY STOCKHOLM

USMISSION NATO

DIA WASHDC

USCINCEUR VAIHINGEN GER

S E C R E T LISBON 6350

E.O. 11652: XGDS-4

TAGS: PINT, ELAB, PO

SUBJ: LOWENSTEIN INTERVIEW WITH MINISTER OF LABOR

SUMMARY: MINISTER OF LABOR TOMAS ROSA TOLD DEPUTY ASSISTANT
SECRETARY LOWENSTEIN THAT COMMUNIST PARTY WISHES TO DISCREDIT
BUT NOT TO OVERTHROW THE SIXTH GOVERNMENT. FOR ITS PART,
GOVERNMENT IS DEVELOPING PROGRAMS TO STRENGTHEN NON-COMMUNIST
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UNIONS AND TO REDUCE UNEMPLOYMENT. OUTSIDE FINANCIAL SUPPORT

FOR BOTH OF THESE OBJECTIVES IS NEEDED. END SUMMARY

1. DEPUTY ASSISTANT SECRETARY LOWENSTEIN CALLED ON MINISTER OF LABOR TOMAS ROSA OCTOBER 27, ACCOMPANIED BY AMBASSADOR AND LABATT. FOLLOWING IS (UNCLEARED) SUMMARY OF MAJOR POINTS COVERED DURING HOUR AND HALF MEETING:

-- MINISTER STATED THAT PRESENT MOMENT IS RIGHT TIME FOR U.S. TO WEIGH IN WITH SUBSTANTIAL FINANCIAL SUPPORT FOR SIXTH GOVERNMENT. DESPITE SOME OPPOSITION TO US AID PRIME MINISTER RECOGNIZES THAT CREDITS ALREADY DISCUSSED ARE OFFERED IN GOOD FAITH AND NOT EXPLOITATIVE. ASSISTANCE FROM U.S. IS DEMONSTRATION THAT PORTUGAL'S REAL ECONOMIC TIES ARE WITH WEST IN COMPARISON WITH "NEGATIVE ASSISTANCE" RECEIVED FROM COMMUNIST COUNTRIES.

-- ASSISTANCE IS NECESSARY IN ORDER TO COUNTERBALANCE LARGE SCALE SUPPORT IN MONEY, ARMS, AND PROPAGANDA RECEIVED BY PORTUGUESE COMMUNIST PARTY (PCP) AND OTHER LEFTIST PARTIES. ALTHOUGH SOCIALIST (PS) AND POPULAR DEMOCRATIC PARTIES (PPD) ARE ABLE TO TURN OUT LARGE CROWDS FOR DEMONSTRATIONS, THEIR FOLLOWERS LACK MILITANCY TO CONTEST ELECTIONS, DEFEND OFFICES, AND MAINTAIN POSITIONS DURING CONFRONTATIONS WITH PCP. ADDITIONAL FUNDING COULD IMPROVE DEMOCRATIC ORGANIZATIONS' CAPABILITIES.

-- MINISTER IS CREATING OFFICE FOR SYNDICAL SUPPORT WITHIN MINISTRY TO PROVIDE ASSISTANCE TO THOSE UNIONS OPPOSING COMMUNIST DOMINATION OF INTERSINDICAL. OFFICE WILL SPONSOR MEETINGS, PUBLICATIONS, AND UNDERTAKE OTHER BACK-UP SERVICES WHICH INTER-SINDICAL DOES NOT PROVIDE.

-- MINISTER HOPEFUL THAT ADDITIONAL INTERNATIONAL INSTITUTIONAL FUNDING CAN BE FOUND TO AUGMENT MINISTRY'S LIMITED BUDGET FOR UNION SUPPORT ACTIVITIES. DIRECT SUPPORT FROM U.S. UNIONS INAPPROPRIATE AS IT WOULD BE MISCONSTRUED BY HOSTILE MEDIA.

-- AMBASSADOR MENTIONED POSSIBILITY OF U.S. ASSISTANCE TO RETURNING ANGOLAN REFUGEES. MINISTER HOPEFUL THAT THIS ASSISTANCE COULD BE INCORPORATED IN OVERALL PROGRAM OF AID TO PORTUGAL'S 300,000 UNEMPLOYED, 10 PERCENT OF LABOR FORCE. CREDITS FOR HOUSING WOULD PROVIDE IMPORTANT SPUR FOR EMPLOYMENT

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IN CIVIL CONSTRUCTION.

-- MINISTER BELIEVES THAT PCP UNABLE TO ASSUME POWER IN PORTUGAL. HOWEVER, IT IS ATTEMPTING TO UNDERMINE EFFECTIVENESS OF SIXTH GOVERNMENT IN ORDER TO DEMONSTRATE TO POPULACE THAT THE ARMED FORCES MOVEMENT, THE SOCIALISTS, AND THE POPULAR DEMOCRATS ARE UNABLE TO GOVERN. CONSEQUENTLY PCP DOES NOT WISH TO PRECIPITATE FALL OF SIXTH GOVERNMENT BUT RATHER TO

RENDER IT IMPOTENT.

-- GOVERNMENT ON VERGE OF ANNOUNCING SERIES OF MEASURES DESIGNED
TO FURTHER ESTABLISHMENT OF DEMOCRATIC, PLURALISTIC SOCIALIST
SOCIETY AND TO RESTORE MILITARY DISCIPLINE AND BOLSTER ECONOMY.
NEWLY APPOINTED HEADS OF MUNICIPAL POLICE (PSP) AND
PARAMILITARY NATIONAL POLICE (GNR) ARE SUPPORTERS OF GOVERNMENT'S
POLICIES.

-- MINISTER STATED THAT GOVERNMENT HAS ABILITY TO END COMMUNIST
DOMINATION OF MEDIA BUT TIME FOR THIS MOVE NOT YET RIPE.

2. COMMENT: MINISTER BELIEVES GOVERNMENT HAS IT WITHIN ITS
POWER TO DOMINATE SITUATION. HOWEVER, OUTSIDE SUPPORT IS NEEDED
FOR PROGRAMS TO REPLACE COMMUNIST CONTROL OF UNIONS AND TO REDUCE
UNEMPLOYMENT. AIRGRAM FOLLOWS.

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